Environmental Hazards

Scorpion Stings

Overview

- Areas where most commonly found.
- Death and illness.
- Scorpion habits.
- Venom.
- Emergency treatment.
- Outcomes.
- Prevention.

Areas of Concern

- Severe envenomations occur worldwide.
- Arizona
- Mexico
- Brazil
- South America
- Middle East, Iran, India, Africa

Resulting Deaths & Illness

- ~6,700 stings in U.S. in 1991.
- Almost 50% within Arizona alone.

Habits

- Most live above ground, but some burrow.
- Hide under wood: old stumps, lumber piles, firewood, loose bark on fallen trees, crevices, and ground debris.
- They also enjoy hiding in shoes, blankets, and clothing left on the ground during the day.
- Feed on crickets, roaches, and small lizards.

Venom

- Neurotoxin
- Causes a local reaction at the site of the sting: painful swelling, burning, and bruising.
- With lethal sting may progress to blurred vision, drooling, slurred speech, shaking, shock, and respiratory arrest.

Venom

- Other complications may include nausea, vomiting, and fever.
- Death by respiratory arrest thought to be result of loss of airway(inability to clear airway d/t neurotoxin effect on muscles of throat and jaw).
- Maximum effect in 30 minutes to 5 hours.
- What does this mean to you?

Emergency Treatment

- Call emergency personnel(911, etc...).
- Encourage victim to rest.
- Apply ice to sting site.
- Turn patient on side.

Outcomes

- 75 deaths in Arizona from 1929-1965.
- Last death in Arizona was in 1968.
- Reduction in deaths predominantly due to development and availability of antivenin in 1965.

Prevention

- Eliminate/reduce food source via inecticides.
- Remove possible hiding places(dead wood, leaf piles, etc...).
- Clothing, shoes, and camping gear left outside should be shaken and checked for scorpions before being used.
- Footware recommended in infested areas.

Review

- Locations of infestation
- Statistics of death & illness
- Habits & habitation
- Venom & symptoms
- Emergency treatment you can begin
- Victim outcomes
- Steps toward prevention